

tributors from various Chicago hospitals. There are several excellent articles on paediatric subjects, on blood and circulatory diseases, and on the liver and gall-bladder.

Number III is the Boston number with 421 pages and 66 illustrations. Thirty-one contributors from the Boston hospitals have presented an excellent group of papers illustrative of the work being done in that city. A multitude of subjects are discussed, including clubbed fingers, insulin, osteomalacia, carcinoma, asthma, gallstones, heart disease and the interpretation of murmurs, nervous diseases, physiotherapy and medical school work.

Number IV, the Kansas number has already received notice.

Number V is the St. Louis number and contains nineteen papers upon pituitary tumor, hypertension, nephritis, five papers on paediatric subjects, three on neurology, and others on diabetes, heart conditions, focal infection in relation to the prostate and other subjects. There are fifty seven illustrations.

In the numbers so far issued this year, the publishers have brought together a splendid collection of papers from five large medical centres, and all contain excellent clinical contributions. The series can be highly recommended to the physician who wishes to read and keep abreast of the best in medical practice.

J. H. E.

**Abstract of the Tenth Annual Report on Ophthalmic Hospitals and on Ophthalmic Progress in Egypt, 1922.** By A. F. MacCallan, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.

There are now sixteen permanent ophthalmic hospitals in Egypt. The number of new patients treated in 1922 was 133,750; the operations performed 76,035, and total attendances 1,510,020. The staff is entirely Egyptian, with a British Director.

Over seventy Egyptian surgeons are exclusively practising ophthalmology in Egypt, as a result of the creation of a special school of ophthalmology, and a complete system of ophthalmic inspection has been carried out for many years at the government primary schools in the capital towns of the frontier provinces.

J. H. E.

**The Trial of Frederick Bywaters and Edith Thompson.**

Edited by Filson Young. 8vo. Pp. xxxii x 261. Toronto (1923). Canada Law Book Company Ltd.

This is another volume of the interesting "Notable

British Trials" series. It tells the story of the murder of Percy Thompson, husband of Edith Thompson. The editing of the trial with the evidence adduced, the speeches for the prisoners and prosecution, the charge to the jury and the appendices containing the letters placed in evidence, have been edited in the very excellent manner of the former volumes in the series. The editor appears as a student of psychology in the nineteen pages of introduction in which he recapitulates in narrative form the story which is unfolded at the trial. In the course of this narrative he examines the case in relation to general human justice as distinct from technical justice, and writes as follows:—"The crime was essentially sordid and commonplace; the husband was stabbed to death by the rival in his wife's affections, in the presence of and (so the prosecution alleged) with the approval of the wife. It would be difficult to imagine any circumstances which would afford a shade of justification or excuse for this extremely primitive proceeding. But the case as a whole was not sordid, because the murder formed such a small part of it, and the emotional antecedents of the act itself, illuminated by a series of the most remarkable letters that have

been made public in modern times, lift the whole story out of the commonplace. Nothing is commonplace if we know enough about it. It is commonplace for a jealous man to kill his rival, but it is not commonplace to be able to trace back his emotional history and be aware of the emotional force that ultimately swept him away on its tide." The circumstances of the marriage were in themselves not conducive to happiness. Husband and wife earned their living separately. There were no children, and they had practically nothing in common except the dormitory side of existence, which seems to have resolved itself into a chapter of bitter squabbles.

The letters presented in criminal evidence contained a great many references to attempts at administration of poison to her husband. These the editor considers as true love letters and feels that the emotion in them is both deep and true, and that they contain passages of actual beauty to find the match for which one has to look in the love letters of people far above the accused woman in poetic and literary attainments. The love they breathed being illegal, was as a matter of course the subject of unsympathetic reference in a court of law. There is little of medical evidence in the trial, but the editor's comment upon the psychological aspect of the case makes the trial an interesting study for the physician who sees so many aspects of the human mind and its varying passions.

J. H. E.

**The Diseases of the Breast.** By Willmott H. Evans, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, London. Large Octavo, 495 pages with 106 illustrations, of which 15 are coloured. Price 27s 6d net. The University of London Press Ltd., 17 Warwick Square, E.C., 1923.

It may at once be said that this is one of the best written, well printed, and beautifully illustrated monographs on the subject in the English language. Every phase of the subject is covered completely and yet concisely, while the space devoted to the different affections is in due proportion to their importance. Thus carcinoma in its various aspects occupies about half the volume. It is evident also that the book is written from the storehouse of the author's personal experience as masses of statistics from other sources are conspicuous by their absence.

The operative treatment of cancer is described along more or less standard lines, with removal of both the pectoralis major and minor. It is of interest to note that the author is of the opinion that "On the whole it may be said that radium cannot, at least as at present used, do much for malignant disease of the breast," which may not meet with the entire approval of some of the workers in that field.

In conclusion, the volume cannot fail to be instructive to any reader interested in the subject. E. R. S.

**Papers and Addresses in Surgery, Selected and Revised.** By R. Hamilton Russell, F.R.C.S., Eng., Consulting Surgeon to the Alfred Hospital, the Children's Hospital, and the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, Melbourne. Small octavo, 452 pages with illustrations. Published by Allan Grant, 82 Collins St., Melbourne, 1923.

This volume, as its title indicates, includes a number of addresses on allied subjects, and hence presents considerable overlapping. It is, however, a most readable work, and perhaps may be said to be chiefly devoted to an exposition of the author's views in favour of the sacular theory of the causation of hernia. Whatever one's views may be as to the correctness of this theory, one must admit that the author presents his case very plausibly, while at the same time it is evident that his